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October 6, 1966

Dr. Joshua Lederberg  
Department of Genetics  
Stanford University  
Palo Alto, California

My dear Dr. Lederberg:

I am vitally and personally interested in the subject of memory retention in the aged and am eager to read and learn everything that is available to a layman concerning this subject.

I have just re-read the July, 1966 issue of "Fortune" and note that you believe that "'euphenics' would involve modifying the functioning of the genes at the developmental stage or later by administering enzymes, hormones or other chemical agents, such as brain-enhancing drugs, to make up deficiencies or to get entirely new effects."

Is anything of this kind now being performed on humans and if so have there been any favorable results without any harmful side effects?

Any information you can send me concerning experiments, treatment or medication will be deeply appreciated and I shall be happy to defray any expense involved.

Yours sincerely

*Irvin F. Westheimer*  
IRVIN F. WESTHEIMER

IFW/b  
airmail

correction of defects in sexual development with hormones would be an example. Very little has been done on humans with brain development, but some promising but controversial effects have been claimed; not yet ready for general trials. Much more basic research is needed. J. L.

P.S. See also my column in the Washington Post (opposite editorial page) for Sunday October 30.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

encl: Don't drop education - yet. SAM 8/28/66